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Maine's Animal Welfare Program Review for 2013

Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

Maine Animal Welfare Division

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Maine's Animal Welfare Program review for 2013

Our Mission: The Animal Welfare Program ensures the humane treatment of animals through communication, education, and enforcement of animal welfare laws.

What we do: Animal Welfare develops and implements policies and programs to effectively address complaints of animal cruelty, to inspect and License Animal shelters, Pet stores, Kennels, Animal research facilities, and to enforce the licensing of dogs.

Staff

Director: Liam Hughes

District Humane Agent Aroostook County, Chrissy Perry

District Humane Agent Washington, Hancock Counties, Douglas Radziewicz

District Humane Agent Penobscot, Piscataquis, Somerset Counties, Rachel Croce

District Humane Agent Waldo, Knox, Lincoln, Kennebec Counties, Rae- Ann Demos

District Humane Agent Franklin Oxford Androscoggin Counties, Angela Young

Support Staff: Lynn Fortin

Vacant position: York, Cumberland counties

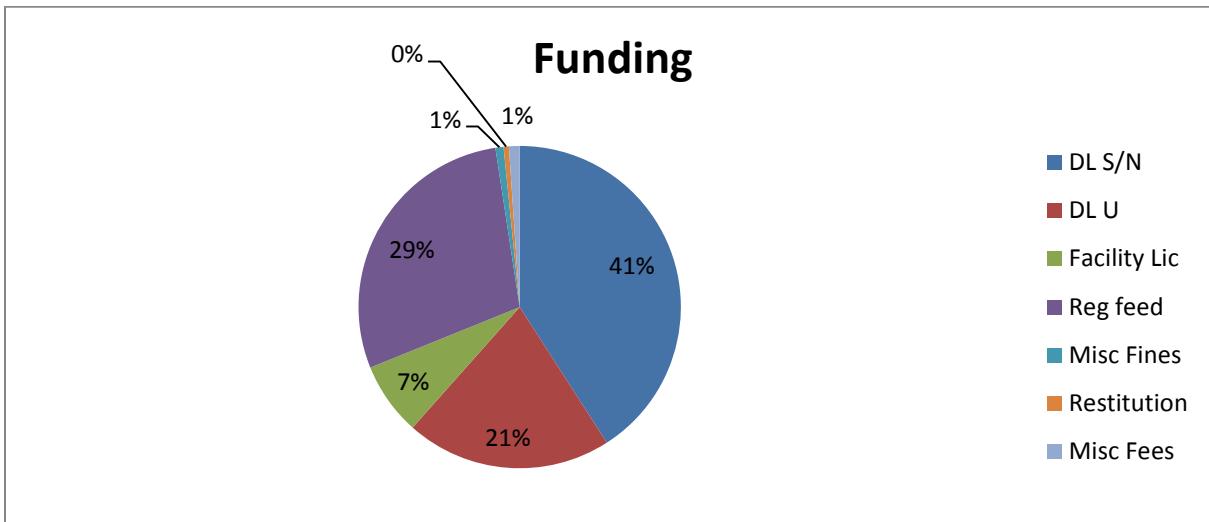
Vacant Position: Veterinarian

Vacant position: State Humane Agent

Vacant position: Planning and Research

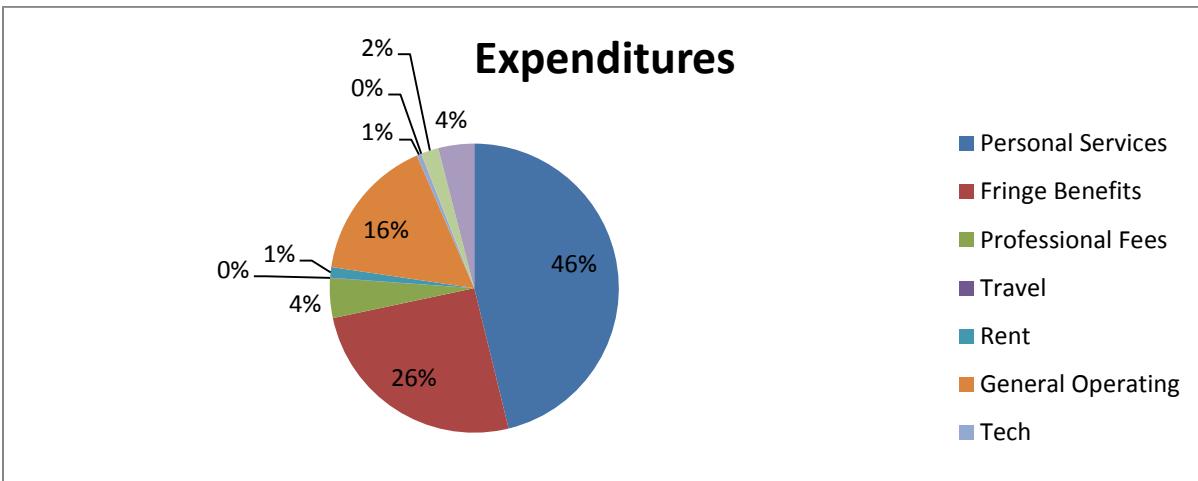
Funding

A majority of the funding for Animal Welfare comes from Dog Licensing and Pet food surcharges. In the calendar year for 2013, Animal Welfare



Dog License	\$432,753.00
Dog License U	\$218,558.00
Facility Lic	\$77,439.00
Reg feed	\$303,690.00
Misc Fines	\$8,602.00
Restitution	\$5,620.00
Misc Fees	\$11,320.00

Expenditures



Expenditures

Personal Services	\$397,187.00
Fringe Benefits	\$219,312.00
Professional Fees	\$38,124.00
Travel	\$401.00
Rent	\$10,206.00
General Operating	\$139,032.00
Tech	\$4,348.00
Clothing	\$541.00
Supplies	\$16,576.00
Sta-cap	\$34,465.00

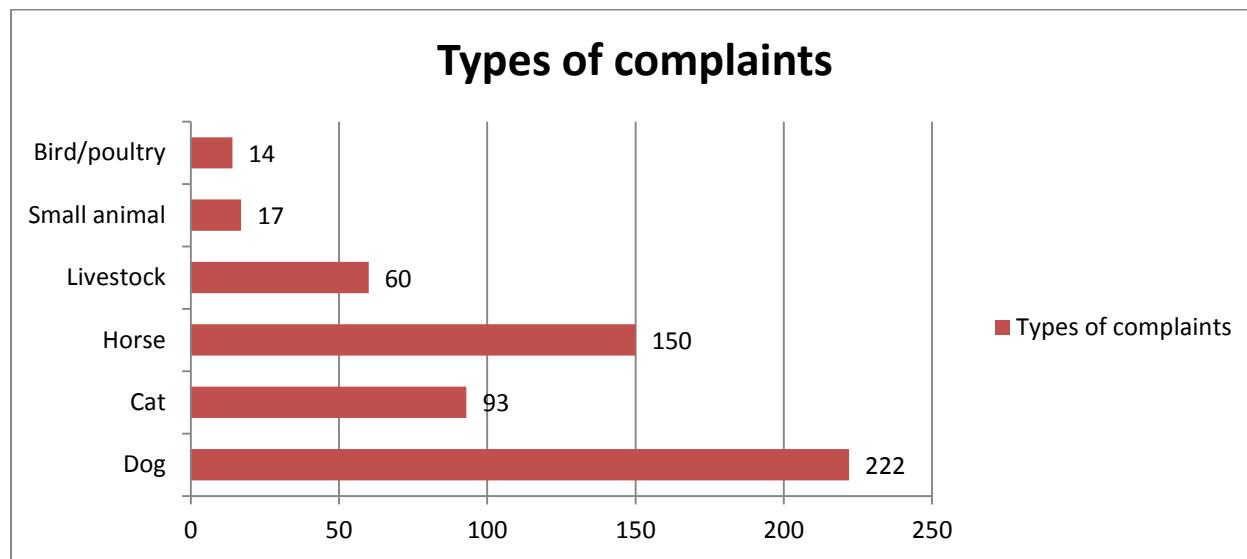
Animal Complaints in 2013

472 Animal complaints were received by the Animal Welfare program in 2013. Animal Welfare staff has been working with the public and local Animal Control Officers to help resolve complaints of neglect, abuse, and animal/human conflicts throughout the year. Though our efforts to educate the public of what the pet owner's responsibilities are and what resources are available to them we have been able to reduce the number of animals seized by the state and improve the quality of life for the people and animals we encounter.

367 Animals that were surrendered from animal owners that found themselves unable to care for the animals appropriately or overwhelmed by the costs of the animals care were quickly placed into local animal shelters and rescues where most have been able to be rehomed.

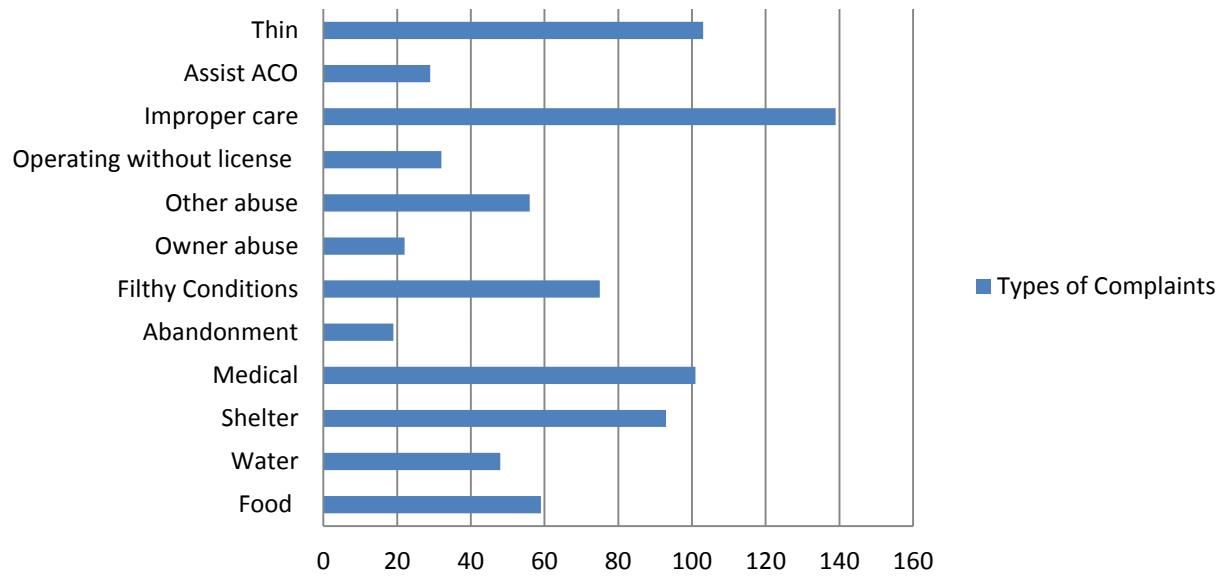
In some cases, owners cannot accept the fact what they are doing is causing harm to the animals or a violation of the Maine State Laws. After every attempt to communicate to the owner of the animals what they need to do to improve has failed, or there is probable cause of deliberate abuse, Humane Agents will begin working with the local District Attorney's office to file for an ex parte order or a search warrant to get custody of the animals and gather evidence.

In 2013, 123 animals were seized by Humane Agents across the State of Maine. Once the animals that have been seized by the state have been awarded to the Animal Welfare Program by the court, we work with our shelter and rescue partners to rehome the animals just like they would be if they were surrendered to Animal Welfare.



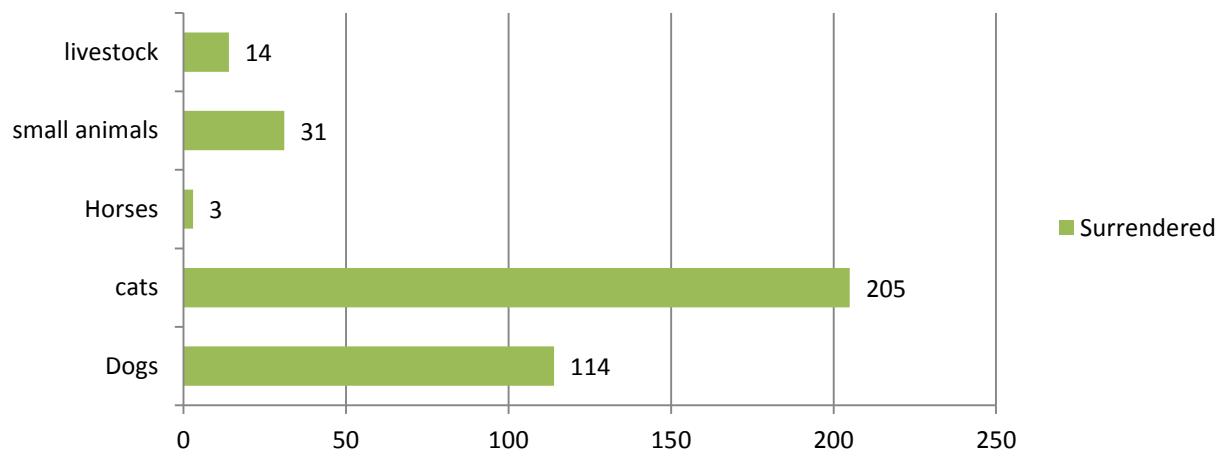
Cow complaints = 53% of Livestock complaints. Other and small animals include Sheep, Goats, Rabbits, Gerbils, Guinea pigs, Hamsters, Gerbils, chinchillas, Donkeys, Snakes, Pigs, Parrots, Ducks, Chickens, Geese, Alpacas, Lamas, Rats, and an Emu.

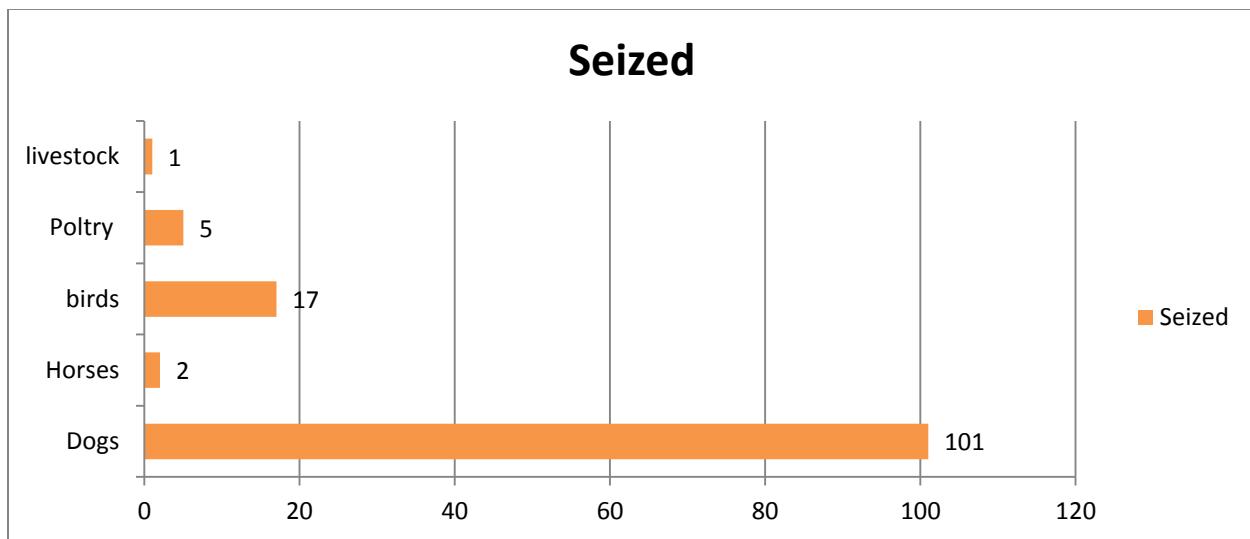
Types of Complaints



Many of these complaints had multiple issues that are not reflected in this graph. In many of the cases dealing with improper care, education was the only thing necessary to improve the situation.

Surrendered





Companion Animal Sterilization

Help Fix ME has been in operation since 2005 and has helped ____ Dogs and cats across the State of Maine. The Goals of the Help Fix me program is to assist responsible pet owners keep their pets and help reduce the numbers of unwanted pets euthanized in the animal shelters. It is designed to help people on Government assistance or meet finical criteria. Thanks to a growing movement in responsible pet ownership and spay and neuter programs from many of the animal shelters and humane groups across the state, pet spay and neutering is more available to the public and the amount of unwanted pets in the animal shelters is down to record lows. Over the past 3 years, Animal Welfare has been conducting surveys of the animal shelters to find out how many animals are being euthanized and how many are adding to the live release rate. During the time we have been doing the survey we found that the live release rate has gone up and the euthanasia rate decreased dramatically.

In 2011 the live release rate was about 72% for all the shelters in Maine. In 2012 that number increased to 80%. In 2013 the number has increased to **%. These figures are impressive and due to the hard work of the local animal shelters, Veterinarians, and Animal Control Officers

The funding for Help Fix ME comes from

Licensed Facilities

Animal Welfare is responsible for the licensing and Inspection of all of the Animal Shelters, Pet Stores, Boarding Kennels, Breeding Kennels, and research facilities in the State of Maine. There are over 550 of these facilities in the state and humane agents are working with these facilities to maintain compliance and prevent disease outbreaks.

Animal Control Officer Trainings and improvements

Another responsibility of Animal Welfare is to provide the Basic Animal Control Officers Training and to help encourage them to seek additional trainings where ever possible. Every spring and fall our office puts on a training that helps instruct the ACO in their responsibilities, the animal laws, dangerous dogs and bite cases, rabies, and officer safety. A wide variety of professionals from their fields come to act as instructors such as District Attorneys, Veterinarians, Police Officers, and other Certified ACO's share their experiences and knowledge to help new ACO's prepare for the job ahead of them.